

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5130

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OREP, EEC, PFOR (CODEL CANNON)

SUBJECT: CODEL CANNON MEETING WITH EC COMMISSION --
US- EC RELATIONS AND GENERAL POLICY

REF: EC BRUSSELS 2369

1. SUMMARY. AS INDICATED IN THE REFTEL, MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE (CODEL CANNON) HELD INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH EC COMMISSION MEMBERS AND SENIOR STAFF ON MAY 2 FOLLOWED BY A PRIVATE MEETING WITH EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI. ORTOLI ALSO GAVE A LUNCHEON FOR THE CODEL MEMBERS. (SENATORS CANNON, PEARSON, GRIFFIN AND BEALL). THIS MESSAGE COVERS THE DISCUSSION ON GENERAL ASPECTS OF US- EUROPEAN RELATIONS. SEPARATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TELEGRAMS REPORT THE DISCUSSIONS ON ENERGY AND AGRICULTURE.

2. SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES, EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, EXPLAINED AT LENGTH HIS SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE KISSINGER SPEECH AND OF US PREOCCUPATIONS REGARDING ITS RELATIONS WITH EUROPE; URGED THAT THE US BE PATIENT SINCE A COMPREHENSIVE ATLANTIC DIALOGUE -- COVERING ALL FIELDS -- CAN PROBABLY ONLY BE DEVELOPED OVER TIME; AND MADE A STRONG PLEA THAT THE TWO SIDES RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR COMMON INTERESTS CONTINUE TO OUTWEIGHT THEIR SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES. THE CODEL MEMBERS EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR SOAMES' PRESENTATION BUT THEY OUTLINED THE DOMESTIC PRESSURES IN THE US, FOR EXAMPLE, ON TRADE AND ON THE EUROPEAN TROOP QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

3. SOAMES SAID THAT INEVITABLY A STRONGER, MORE UNITED EUROPE WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THE US. THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT BE COMPOUNDED BY MUTUAL LACK OF UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER. HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE US CONCERN THAT EUROPEAN ECONOMIC UNIFICATION HAS NOT YET BEEN FOLLOWED BY POLITICAL UNIFICATION -- TO MAKE POSSIBLE A COMPREHENSIVE ATLANTIC DIALOGUE AND GREATER EUROPEAN SHARING OF WESTERN RESPONSIBILITIES. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT IS ONLY FOUR MONTHS SINCE THE ENLARGED COMMUNITY CAME INTO BEING AND THAT 1980 IS THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT TARGET DATE FOR EUROPEAN UNION. THIS DID NOT REPEAT NOT MEAN THAT THE BROAD DIALOGUE HAD TO WAIT UNTIL 1980. IT DID MEAN THT THE DIALOGUE WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED PROGRESSIVELY OVER TIME AND THAT THE US WOULD HAVE TO BE PATIENT.

4. SOAMES SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED THE BROAD POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE FORTHCOMING MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE LIKELY BENEFITS OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION PER SEE -- ALTHOUGH ONE SHOULD NOT UNDERRATE THE LATTER. THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD TO SUCCEED TO PREVENT BACKSLIDING INTO PROTECTIONISM AND ISOLATIONISM.

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5. NOTING THAT DEFENSE QUESTIONS ARE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE COMMUNITY AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, SOAMES RECOGNIZED THAT ALL KEY ASPECTS OF ATLANTIC RELATIONS ARE RELATED. FOR A LONG TIME TO COME, WESTERN SECURITY WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE PURSUED ESSENTIALLY IN THE NATO FRAMEWORK. WHILE STUDIES AND DISCUSSIONS MIGHT GO AHEAD ON EUROPEAN DEFENSE, THERE COULD BE NO COMMON EUROPEAN DEFENSE POLICY IN THE ABSENCE OF AN OVERALL EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY.

6. SENATORS CANNON AND GRIFFIN EXPLAINED THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE US, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRESSURES TO REDUCE TROOPS IN EUROPE; THE DIFFICULTY OF MAINTAINING STRONG DEFENSE CONTRIBUTIONS IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF EAST- WEST DETENTE; PROTECTIONIST FEELINGS AND TRADE
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UNION CONCERN ABOUT EXPORT OF JOBS. THEY POINTED OUT HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO DEAL WITH THESE MATTERS ON A COMPARTMENTALIZED BASIS WITH OUT EUROPEAN ALLIES WHEN THEY ARE ALL INTERTWINED AS EXPLAINED IN THE KISSINGER SPEECH. SENATOR BEALL EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE -- ESPECIALLY WHILE THE TRADE BILL IS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN CONGRESS -- FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO BE REASSURED THAT THE COMMUNITY IS NOT TRYING TO SET UP A CLOSED TRADING SYSTEM AND RECOGNIZES THAT FREER TRADE IS A TWO- WAY STREET.

7. COMMISSIONER DAHRENDORF STATED THAT HE SHARES KISSINGER'S ASSESSMENT OF THE NEED TO RECONSIDER THE

" RULES" FOR ATLANTIC RELATIONS -- INCLUDING RELATIONS WITH JAPAN -- GIVEN CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS. HE ALSO AGREED THAT COMMON WESTERN INTERESTS SHOULD BE REAFFIRMED. ABOVE ALL, DAHRENDORF CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT A FRAMEWORK BE DEVELOPED TO ASSURE THAT DIVERGENT INTERESTS BETWEEN EUROPE, AMERICA AND JAPAN BE MANAGED IN A MANNER TO AVOID DAMAGING THE FUNDAMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS.

8. DAHRENDORF MAINTAINED THAT EUROPEAN SELF- INTEREST WOULD PREVENT A CLOSED COMMUNITY. HE PUT IN A SPECIAL PLEA FOR CAREFUL STUDY OF WAYS AND MEANS FURTHER TO ENCOURAGE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT IN AMERICA AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO US TRADE RESTRICTIONS OR REDUCTION OF US INVESTMENT ABROAD. SENATORS GRIFFIN AND BEALL POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND MANY STATES ARE ALREADY MAKING MAJOR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE US.

9. SOAMES CONCLUDED HIS PRESENTATION WITH A MAJOR PLEA FOR PERSPECTIVE AND PATIENCE. HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT WE SHOULD NOT BE FOOLED BY THE ATMOSPHERE OF DETENTE. BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND CHINA ARE EVERYONE' S INTEREST BUT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT CHANGED THEIR BASIC OBJECTIVES OF EXPANDING THEIR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE IN EUROPE AND IN THE THIRD WORLD. THE COMMUNITY IS TRYING TO HELP, FOR EXAMPLE, IN AFRICA. IN THIS SITUATION, US AND WESTERN EUROPE WILL CONTINUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TO HAVE STRONG COMMON INTERESTS THAT OVERRIDE ANY CONCEIVABLE DIFFERENCE.

10. SENATOR PEARSON SAID THAT PART OF WHAT SEEMED TO BE TROUBLING OUR EUROPEAN FRIENDS WAS IN FACT THE FULFILLMENT OF THE NIXON DOCTRINE -- PARTICULARLY THE MOVE FROM DOMINANCE TO MORE EQUAL PARTNERSHIP. WE WANT TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITIES WITH EUROPE. RATHER THAN A NEW KIND OF AMERICAN ISOLATIONISM, REALIZATION OF THE NIXON DOCTRINE WILL MEAN A BETTER ATLANTIC BALANCE. AMBASSADOR GREENWALD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER, DEFINING AND BRINGING OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES UP TO DATE, WILL HELP SOLVE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONS BY PUTTING THEM IN A BROADER FRAMEWORK.
GREENWALD

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